

It was yet some years before George of Antioch, whose operations along the coast were a source of terror to all the Moslem princes, was able to make any considerable conquest on the mainland itself. The unchecked triumphs of the King on the mainland in the years following Mignano then allowed him to launch all his naval power upon the opposite coasts. In 1143 (June 1st) a Sicilian fleet attempted a *coup de main* upon Tripoli, but the Arabs of the interior rode in to reinforce the garrison, and drove the assailants to their ships. In the same year a more successful stroke was made against Djidjeli, near Bugia, and the town was taken and burned. Between July, 1144, and June, 1145, the little town of Bresk, between Tenes and Cherehell, was plundered, and the island of Kerkinna opposite Sfax shared a similar fate, in spite of the protests of El-Hasan. The next year saw a triumph which was the foundation of a considerable African dominion.

On the 15th June, 1146, the Admiral George, with two hundred ships, appeared before Tripoli again. A chief of the Almoravid race, which now ruled Spain, was in command of the town, but there was no unity among the inhabitants. Indeed a

struggle of factions made the task of
George easy;
after three days he was master of one
of the great-
est of the Moslem cities. The conquest
was se-
cured by a policy which contrasts
creditably
with the half-piracy of the preceding
years. The
Admiral ordered a **amAn**, allowed
such